

THE GATEWAY

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U of A undergrads face 5.3% tuition increase

Administration blames lack of government funding for making a maximum tuition increase necessary

CATLIN CRAWSHAW
Associate News Editor

Tuition is once again at the forefront of campus politics as the U of A administration is set to unveil its financial scheme for the upcoming 2004/05 academic year.

This Friday, the University of Alberta Board of Governors will vote on a maximum allowable tuition increase of 5.3 per cent for the upcoming academic year, before drafting next year's budget.

"It used to be the case that we got ten dollars in government support for each dollar of tuition. We now get \$2.32. So, with tuition increasing, unless the government at least matches that, it will get even worse."

CARL AMRHEIN,
U OF A PROVOST



Students' Union maintains freeze is possible; admin should be able to find money elsewhere

KRISTINE OWRAM
News Editor

After voting down the administration's multi-year tuition proposition, the Students' Union is doing all they can to defeat this year's proposed 5.3 per cent hike on their own.

The multi-year proposal, which would have given undergraduate students maximum tuition hikes for the next two years in order to unite the SU with the Graduate Students' Association and the U of A administration to lobby the government for more funding, was defeated by Students' Council with a vote of 23 to six in November.

"... even though the government isn't giving us enough, we are still faced with a situation where the University could find that money if they had to."

MAT BRECHTEL,
SU PRESIDENT

HEAD TO HEAD Provost Carl Amrhein and SU President Mat Brechtel discuss the proposed tuition increase.

According to Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein, increasing tuition is the University's only option in the face of increasing operation costs coupled with steadily decreasing provincial funding.

"It used to be the case that we got ten dollars in government support for each dollar of tuition. We now get \$2.32," said Amrhein. "So, with tuition increasing, unless the government at least matches that, it will even get worse."

Budget discussions will be held this week with deans, department chairs, various employee groups and the presidents of the Students' Union and Graduate Students' Association prior to the Board of Governors decision on Friday.

But following this, the U of A will lobby the provincial government for increased funding in what Amrhein called an "all-out media blitz campaign."

Aside from asking the province to "pay its fair share" when it comes to dollar investment per student, the administration will argue that there is insufficient space for Alberta high school students at the province's post-secondary institutions.

PLEASE SEE AMRHEIN • PAGE 2

AVERAGE UNDERGRADUATE TUITION FEES

Average provincial tuition fees weighted by number of students enrolled by institution and field of study. Fees at both public and private institutions are included in the weighted average calculations.

	1993/94	1998/99	2002/03	2003/04
CANADA	\$2023	\$3064	\$3749	\$4025
Newfoundland	\$2000	\$3216	\$2729	\$2606
Prince Edward Island	\$2509	\$3327	\$3891	\$4133
Nova Scotia	\$2701	\$4074	\$5214	\$5557
New Brunswick	\$2385	\$3225	\$4186	\$4457
Québec	\$1550	\$1803	\$1851	\$1862
Ontario	\$2076	\$3640	\$4665	\$4923
Manitoba	\$2272	\$3149	\$3144	\$3155
Saskatchewan	\$2341	\$3279	\$4286	\$4644
Alberta	\$2209	\$3519	\$4165	\$4487
British Columbia	\$2240	\$2525	\$3176	\$4140

Source: University of Alberta's Tuition Proposal 2004/05

However, the administration isn't backing down. This year's proposed 5.3 per cent hike, which, if passed, will work out to approximately \$125 per full-time student per term, is the maximum allowable by provincial government legislation, and the administration maintains a budgetary deficit makes the increase absolutely necessary.

But the SU believes they can find the money elsewhere. "It's important to realize that [tuition increases] are a function both of how much the University administration has been spending over the last several years, and of how much the government has been giving us," said SU President Mat Brechtel. "So even though the government isn't giving us enough, we are still faced with a situation where the University could find that money if they had to."

Brechtel maintained that a freeze was the only acceptable solution this year as far as students are concerned.

"We think a freeze is the first step in the right direction for tuition. Right now there are so many people not coming to university because they're crippled so badly by cost that eventually it should reach some sort of ideal level," he said.

PLEASE SEE BRECHTEL • PAGE 3



15 Ever hear of this emo band called Yellowcard? No? Yeah, not many people have, but we interviewed them and now you can become their girlfriend if you read the story in A&E.

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Outside

Tuesday Rain, modern transportation depends on nickel High 5, Low -5
Wednesday Cloudy, wherever the load is great, nickel's on the job High -1, Low -8
Thursday Cloudier, nickel is the glamour metal of the transport industry! High -4, Low -8
Friday Sun and cloud, nickel's bigger than your dad! High -6, Low -11
Source: Environment Canada

From the archives

Reviving an old campus tradition, members of a local fraternity performed a party raid resulting in several arrests by Edmonton Police. Entering a nurse's residence via fire escape, the raiders seized their booty, as it were, and fled the building. Unfortunately for them, the scheme set off alarms informing Edmonton Police of a break-in and police were awaiting the quasi-crooks as they exited with their loot. One student involved in the raid was a second-year medical student, and another was graduating in commerce. The party raiders were arrested for breaking and entering, and faced possible expulsion. Would-be party raiders surely learned a lesson, even if it was short-lived.

1960



19 They said it couldn't be done. But Bill Benson proved them wrong. He created three wonderful rows of Varsity Happersings. Find out about his exploits in Comics.

Prof wins Governor General for children's lit

A profile on U of A elementary education prof and author Glen Huser

DAVID BERRY
News Writer

It isn't hard to see why Glen Huser is such a popular author. He is a congenial man and appears a bonafide wordsmith. As we speak, he often pauses and looks off thoughtfully, carefully choosing his words to capture his sentiments.

Accolades have followed the Edmonton author throughout his career—to such an extent that every one of his novels has been nominated for an award. But Huser explains that more often than not, he has been the one congratulating the winner rather than receiving the prize.

"I have a long history of not winning up until this one," chuckles the elementary school teacher, as he looks over his collected works spread out over the table at a local coffee shop. The "one" he's referring to is the Governor General's Award for children's literature, which he recently received for his latest youth novel, *Stitches*.

Despite all the commendations he has received over the years, Huser remains strikingly humble. He explains that he never thought *Stitches* would garner all the attention it has received.

"One of the first reviews I read was quite a negative review and I thought [is publisher] Groundwood going to ask for their advance against royalties back?" he remembers with a smile.

Because of his humility, as well as his vast experience in children's literature as a book reviewer with the *Edmonton Journal* for over 20 years, Huser feels especially honoured

to receive the Governor General's Award, Canada's most prestigious literary prize.

"I've reviewed books for so many years and so many have crossed my desk, so I know how easy it is for books to get lost in the shuffle. So for someone to focus on yours and say 'hey, this is among the best' is quite a lovely acknowledgement by your peers," he says with a smile.

"I've reviewed books for so many years ... so I know how easy it is for books to get lost in the shuffle. So for someone to focus on yours and say 'hey, this is among the best' is quite a lovely acknowledgement by your peers."

GLEN HUSER,
GOVERNOR GENERAL
AWARD RECIPIENT

The novel, about a young boy who is bullied and singled out because of his love for puppetry and stitch work, is partially based on Huser's experiences, as "the kid who would sooner be drawing and painting than out playing street hockey" in small-town Alberta. But Huser explains that the story is primarily grounded in his observations of youth during

his years as a teacher-librarian in Edmonton schools.

"You see these kids [like the one in *Stitches*] and your heart kind of breaks for them at times, because you know that they're kind of pushed off to the side," says Huser. "So [the novel] is also about how when you are pushed off to the side you make your own way and build your own life. Don't negate those directions and dreams just because they're not mainstream. So that's part of the message, if you want to put the big 'M' on it."

As a teacher and librarian, Huser taught language arts and creative writing and frequently worked with gifted students. This ultimately led him to the University of Alberta to take a creative writing course, and to the subsequent publication of several short stories in Canadian literary magazines. On top of these successes, Huser completed a creative writing thesis that would become his first novel, *Grace Lake*.

Huser now imparts his knowledge of both creative writing and teaching to the occasional language arts class in the elementary education faculty. This semester, Huser is teaching Elementary Education 305, "Language Arts in the Elementary School."

"Everything you need to know about teaching reading and writing in three credits," he says with an ironic smile.

And while he does enjoy teaching, writing features more prominently in his plans for the future. "I'm going to write more and work less. Yes, definitely, I've worked long enough, I think."

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Unexpected expenses can be tough to swallow.

Student Budget Information

SINGLE STUDENT MONTHLY LIVING ALLOWANCE ACCORDING TO STUDENT FINANCE BOARD

RENT (shared or shared roommate)	\$300
UTILITIES (heat, water, cold)	\$100
FOOD/CLOTHING/PERSONAL CARE	\$277
TRANSPORTATION (one way)	\$ 53
TOTAL MONTHLY ALLOWANCE	\$730

UNEXPECTED EXPENSES NOT PART OF A STUDENT'S RECOMMENDED DAILY RATES

ADDITIONAL RENT (shared room)	\$300
STUDENT SUPPLY (text, supplies, etc.)	\$ 82
TRANSPORTATION (return, double, weekly)	\$280
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LOST WAGES (approx. 100 hours)	\$ 18
STUDENT THERAPIST	\$269

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COSANNA PRESTON

ECSTATIC University of Alberta prof and children's author Glen Huser discusses his new Governor General's Award.

SU seeks student show of support for tuition stance

BRECHTEL • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"But the absolutely minimal first step this year is for the Board of Governors to stop tuition from going even higher."

According to Brechtel, it is becoming virtually impossible for most students to experience university life like they could ten years ago, when tuition was approximately a third of what it is now. "When you have significantly more than half of students with part-time jobs and almost a quarter of students with full-time jobs, there's no way people can focus on education. It's overwhelming," he said.

Scholarships and bursaries "aren't even on the same order of magnitude" as tuition, according to Brechtel, and students loans won't cut it either. "Our most thrifty residence, Lister Hall, has an average cost of \$732 a month [for room and board]," he explained. "At the Alberta Student Loans Office, the

absolute maximum you can get is \$730 a month, and that's only if you're in a dire situation. The University is creating a problem that no one is able to deal with, and they're just exacerbating it every year."

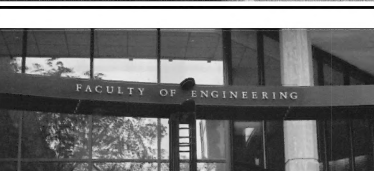
"...the absolutely minimal first step this year is for the Board of Governors to stop tuition from going even higher."

MAT BRECHTEL,
SU PRESIDENT

The Board of Governors will make the final decision on tuition hikes for the 2004/05 academic year this Friday, and Brechtel hopes that a series

of events this week, including a rally in the business/arts quad on Thursday and an overnight vigil for accessible education in SUB, will rally support for the SU position before the Board of Governors decision on Friday.

Brechtel encouraged all students to come out and participate in the events occurring this week to show where they stand on tuition increases. "For the Board of Governors to justify tuition increases and say it's the right thing to do, they need to know that the campus believes it's the right thing to do. I don't think that's the case, but it hasn't been demonstrated," he explained. "If 1000 people come out on Thursday, there's the implicit assumption that 29 000 people agree with tuition increases. But if we can get a serious proportion of students out there, I think [the Board of Governors] will take a sober second look at what they're doing."



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OPINION

managing@gateway.alberta.ca • tuesday, 13 january, 2004

Nothing can replace loss from war

IT'S NO SECRET that the human race has done a lot of stupid things over the course of history, and I'm not just referring to electing George W. Bush or inventing edible underwear. But the Holy Grail of all idiocy—World War II—was a travesty so great and so unimaginably horrendous that its legacy of direness will never be forgotten; however, like so many other tragedies throughout history we have to find a point when we can put the past to rest.

Earlier this week, the Ottawa Citizen reported that a painting by Édouard Vuillard, one of France's most illustrious artists, was discovered to be in the hands of the National Gallery of Canada. The piece is allegedly one of thousands of works that were stolen by the Nazis during their European conquest and is now in the process of being returned to its rightful owners. The National Gallery of Canada has also published pictures of several works in its possession, which are thought to be part of Nazi bounty, as part of a worldwide effort by museums that are attempting to return art to rightful descendants. In Britain, over 300 works—which include original Picassos, Monets and Renoirs—have been listed as possible ill-gotten goods and their combined value is in the hundreds of millions. Although this clearly seems like the moral thing to do, stop and consider what the ramifications are to a modern, politically-correct world attempting to mend the wrongs of governments long past.

Returning a painting is a simple matter. But returning stolen land, paying reparations for war crimes and trying to undo the transgressions of people a generation or more before is tricky business. For decades, property disputes in Europe have ravaged the legal system as the families of victims of old wars fight to reclaim land that was stolen from them. This property has since passed through dozens of hands and is now virtually unattributable.

In Switzerland, several banks have recently been slapped with a lawsuit worth 1.5 billion dollars from Holocaust survivors who claim that the banks refused to release assets deposited by thousands of people who died in concentration camps. In Canada, we face the dilemma of indigenous people whose ancestors had their country taken during the early part of our country's history. There are countless smaller wars and countless governmental injustices that have occurred all over the world and they are all catching up with us.

How do you compensate the families who have lost their loved ones during times of war? How much is enough? Can we make amends for what our ancestors have done? These are all important questions that we have to start asking ourselves as our heritage of war continues to haunt us and we continue to wage new ones.

There is no price you can put on war, on the people whose lives it took, or on the effect it has had on those left behind. With no formal system of compensation in place, it's nearly impossible for families to lay claim to the prized possessions of their ancestors. So where should some of the world's most prized artwork go? Do we really have the means to give retroactive justice?

In a perfect world, we could return everything to its rightful owners. Unfortunately, as history has proven, the world is anything but perfect. Maybe we should just leave the art in galleries where everyone can enjoy it, provide apologies to those who have suffered from loss and focus on the future instead of trying to fix the past.

HEATHER ADLER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

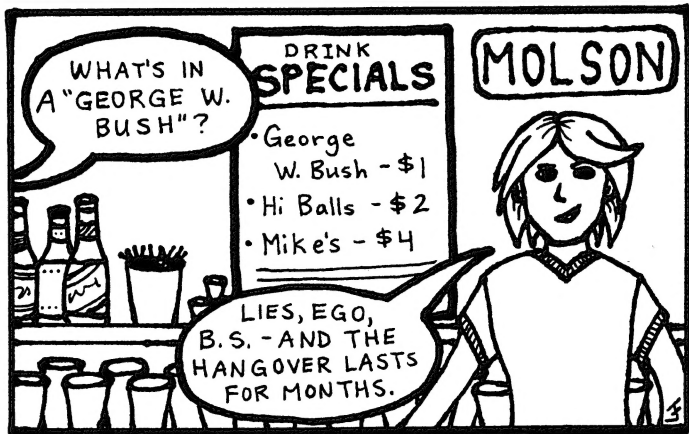
Mac OS X: haikus of a new operating system

SO PRETTY

But it keeps on getting sad
Steve Jobs, where are you?

Aqua is gorgeous
And Carbon is grand, but you
torture poor Joel.

Gateway Staff



LETTERS

Engineering week invades Tory/Business

Students in the Tory and Business buildings will likely have noticed something odd this week: Engineering Week posters up in their buildings. There are even Engineering Week banners in the Tory/Business Union. Why are the engineers cluttering up your building with their event? Because this year it's your event as well.

After years of inviting other faculties to join in on Engineering Week, two teams have finally taken the bait. A combined Business/Science entry, dubbed "The Bus/Sey Alliance," and an Arts/SU team by the name of "Social Engineering" are joining us.

For those of you who don't know what Engineering Week is, think of Anti-Freeze with a slight difference: Engineering Week is more than 60 years old and comprises about 17 events. The events are the same from year to year, and the 'geer clubs compete for bragging rights, not prizes.

We've been inviting other faculties because we're sociable people, and enjoy mixing with other faculties. Sadly, we've noticed a distressing attitude among some of the other faculties: they don't want to play with us. We seem to simultaneously hold a reputation for being hopelessly nerdy loners with no social skills, and debauched drunken party animals. How we're supposed to be both is beyond me.

In truth, we're no different than students from other faculties. We've simply maintained a tradition of ridiculous behaviour that other faculties have left behind. I've been part of that tradition for more than four years, and while we've made mistakes here and there, it's been a blast.

Last year, those students who don't like us apparently brought a giant collective sigh of relief. January came, and Engineering Week didn't invade Quad like it has in years past. We didn't invade CAB and make a racket either. Had Engineering Week gone? Had somebody finally struck down those loud and obnoxious

engineers?

I'm pleased to say no. Engineering Week has moved to new locations, and though we did lose CAB Rally, we still have our Engineering Week. It's way too much fun to give up. We still have all of the spirit we've always had which seems to be too much for some people's taste. Oh well, you can't please everyone.

MICHAEL KEHLER
Head Judge, Engineering Week 2004

Crawshaw exaggerates homeless problem

In response to Caitlin Crawshaw's editorial ("Liberal guilt: no reason for homeless shelter," 6 January), I have a few points to make.

Caitlin, was last summer your first encounter with a homeless person? Your portrayal sounds much sensationalized and kind of ridiculous. I live on 93rd street and 103A avenue, basically in the heart of homelessness and poverty. I see homeless people every day and my experience doesn't seem to match your description of homeless men yelling "pseudo-pick up lines... [and] incoherent grumblings" making you feel intimidated, nervous, and small. Of course this happens on occasion, but it is hardly the norm. Being that this is the reason you feel a homeless shelter has no right being in your neighbourhood, you should note that women, children, and the elderly are a part of the homeless demographic.

You seem to have stereotyped homeless people based on your few experiences last summer: encounter the homeless daily and the majority of the time they simply ask for some change, a cigarette, or mind their own business. It's not something I would describe as belittling. In fact, I feel more threatened by the macho pricks on Whyte Avenue.

So the question I would like to ask you is this: if it's wrong to place a homeless shelter in a neighbourhood of young students, where should they place them? What is the "logical" criterion for determining this? Or do you even care, as long as the homeless aren't in your neighbourhood?

In all areas of the city there are people with "hectic schedules;

many of whom aren't home at all during the day." If homeless people are as threatening as you say they are, which neighbourhood should have to deal with that threat? And I should remind you that in your neighbourhood, most of the crime is caused by university-aged bar patrons, not the homeless.

If homeless people really threaten your seemingly sheltered existence, then you should move to a suburb and never, ever leave. Otherwise, lock your door, call SafeWalk, and quit whining.

JULIE TROHIMCHUK
Open Studies I

A toque doesn't need a whole bus seat to itself

Okay, so it is my understanding that as a paying passenger on an ETS bus or train I am morally obligated to surrender my seat to the following: man with cane, lady with walker, man with seeing-eye dog, and lady with stroller. Am I right? So, then, when at any point were there stickers put up indicating that elderly women are allowed to sit in the aisle seat leaving the window seat unoccupied to use for her purse or winter hat?

You know the ones I'm talking about: older, arms folded, fiercely across their chests, avoiding all eye contact, pretending they can't hear you, I asked a lady one time to please scoot over so that I could sit down and she looked at me, looked at the toque (which was currently using the window seat), looked back at me and shook her head as if to say: "No, sorry, my toque has a senior's bus pass. You have to stand."

I understand that these people command respect, but they get their bus passes for ten bucks a month while we all pay \$53-\$58. At what point did they earn the privilege to force others to stand while their groceries sit comfortably on the seat beside them? Even though I am an able-bodied young person I doesn't mean that at right in the morning I'm not dead tired, winded from running three blocks to catch my bus and nauseous from having inhaled whatever constituted my breakfast. I'm too short to reach those handles and I'd like to sit down now.

These bus drivers seem just as scared as we are to approach these older people, yet they don't hesitate to publicly humiliate and throw off the bus the senior grader who hasn't bought a new bus pass. I don't mind having to stand, when there are no seats, but when I look around and people are using seats as umbrellas rests it sort of makes me want to snap.

The next time I ask someone to move over so that I can sit down and they say no, I'm going to sit in their lap.

JL JAMES
Recreation & Leisure Studies IV

Gateway B-and-E or mere confusion?

As much as the Vertical Struts appreciated seeing our name (and the requisite "greasy-haired" allusions) in print under the heading "best hall show" ("The good, bad and ugly of 2003's live music," 6 January), the attention was a little misplaced. That is, unless the Gateway broke into King Edward Hall this summer, one year after the Red Light Sting, the Wolfnote and the Vertical Struts played there in 2002, and the, um, rock "echo" was audible enough to qualify as the best hall show of 2003. That's probably not the case, though. Maybe instead of giving us credit, some should be given to a few groups (Nevertheless, Fractal Pattern and Down for the Count, if I remember correctly) that played with the Red Light Sting this summer at Queen Alex Hall?

RAYMOND BISSINGER
Arts IV

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gateway.alberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author; to be considered for publication.



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Nicaraguans disagree with leftist rhetoric



MELVIN
BACKSTROM

Noam Chomsky, the famous linguist and anti-American political activist, has been one of the foremost critics of American foreign policy in recent years. After the horrors of 11 September, he notably justified the attacks on the World Trade Center as an understandable reaction to the United States' own history of "international terrorism." One of his favourite examples of the USA's "terrorist" actions against other countries is the Contra War in Nicaragua during the 1980s, which Chomsky characterizes as a "Reagan-US war ... which left tens of thousands of people dead, the country ruined, perhaps beyond recovery."

According to him, the people of Nicaragua, under the benevolent leadership of the Sandinistas, had finally overthrown the evil dictator Somoza, and were well on their way to building a true socialist paradise before the big bad US of A got involved in order to protect its own economic and imperialist interests.

Having been in one point fairly sympathetic to the Cult of Chomsky, and being quite interested in the history of Latin America, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to actually visit Nicaragua while I was in Central America studying Spanish over the recent holiday break. I talked to many people while I was there, and if I had still been a confirmed Chomskyste, I would have been pretty disillusioned by what I heard.

Contrary to the historical perception perpetrated by Chomsky,

the Sandinistas did not enjoy anything close to universal support in Nicaragua when they took power in 1979. The revolution was, in fact, only successful because of the participation of many members of the middle and upper classes. Afterwards, they were excluded from participation in the government once the Sandinistas, under the guidance of Soviet and Cuban advisors, set up neighborhood spy networks—similar to the ones in existence for the last 40 years in the Castro gulf known as Cuba—instituted mandatory military service, nationalized all property and took control of pretty much everything else in the country: the army, media, police and labour unions. When anyone resisted, as the indigenous people of the Mosquito Coast did, the Sandinistas followed the example of their Soviet masters and forcibly relocated, imprisoned and murdered them by the thousands.

Though not overly supportive of the Somoza regime many of the people I talked to, some of whom had fought in the revolution (including one man whose younger brother died fighting Somoza) generally concurred that life was better before the revolution than after. As imperfect as it was, at least there existed freedom of the press, freedom of speech (another man recalled attending numerous speeches and concerts where the regime was routinely condemned) and the guarantee of property rights, all of which

were eliminated when the Sandinistas took power.

The Contras, far from being a mercenary army of the USA, were a disorganized collection of groups with a variety of aims: some were former members of Somoza's National Guards, but others were made up of indigenous tribespeople resisting forced collectivization, as well as former Sandinistas fighting against the Soviet and Cuban domination of Nicaragua that they felt was a betrayal of the revolution.

You would never hear any of this from Professor Chomsky, though, because his thesis—that the USA is the cause of everything wrong in the world—demands that certain facts be conveniently ignored. This is why he can discuss the evils of American foreign policy over the last 50 years without ever mentioning the Cold War and the reality of an aggressive Soviet Empire that had, by 1947, swallowed half of Europe and could have taken the rest if not for the actions of the USA.

It's unfortunate that Chomsky's many accolades ignore his own support for Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge during their "enlightened" rule of Cambodia. But at least they were trying to build a better society and throw off the shackles of economic imperialism! come the reply. And to that you just have to wonder how many more people will have to die before the moral bankruptcy of Marxism is finally admitted.

Whooooooooooooo!

Everybody has to have an adventure once in a while, right? Some people choose to become stuffed dinosaurs and fly strange pieces of computer equipment through space. Other people choose to write for our opinion section.

If you have ideas or opinions about just about anything, you can make yourself heard. Not like in space. You can't hear anything there, silly.

**Opinion Meetings: 3:04 SUB
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THE GATEWAY

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Grow up, you drunks; your liver will thank you



SARAH
HANASYK

Though the years plunge forward in that ever-looming quest to move me into responsible adulthood, I still find the time occasionally to wake up in a cold sweat with my head gently nestled on the bowl of the toilet and a feeling of nausea so great that Ed McMahon himself could knock on my door with a million dollar cheque and I would probably tell him to fuck off.

It's usually then that I declare alcohol to be my sworn nemesis, and yet I usually find myself in the exact same position not one week later. One would think this conditioning would teach me that alcohol, though amusing, is not one of those necessary evils like taxes or Mat Breschi, but I seem to be missing the part of the brain that controls short-term learning and overrules self-torture.

But despite this seemingly frequent picture I've painted of my typical Tuesday morning, I do have the ability to exercise a small degree of control over which organ of my body I choose to cease functioning first. And it's not going to be my liver. This is more than I can say for a handful of friends who, over their university careers, I've noticed go from the occasional Friday night binge-a-thon to making it easier for me to calculate their sober hours in a given week versus those

drunk—so much so that this behaviour has elicited less hilarious anecdotes and a great deal more concern over their well-being.

We tend to associate alcoholism with crusty old wife-abusers with five children from four different mothers, or washed-up cougars who have nothing better to do than drink and hit on pizza-delivery boys. But it's becoming a more prevalent disease among teens and college-aged individuals alike. And since in Canada the age of majority tends to coincide conveniently with the beginning of postsecondary instruction, this problem has become masked as a routine way of spending one's social time.

We tend to associate alcoholism with crusty old wife-abusers with five children from four different mothers, or washed-up cougars who have nothing better to do than drink and hit on pizza delivery boys.

Drinking is often accepted both as a valid and attractive mode of leisure, so much so that our own university has not just one, but two purveyors of alcohol situated right on the main campus, not to mention a handful of establishments located within walking distance. Though I can't deny patronage at these businesses myself, it makes it far more likely that students

predisposed to problem drinking take up residence in these establishments for an entire afternoon.

This problem is worse, however, in the United States. According to a 2002 Harvard survey, even though Canadian students tend to drink more on the whole, American students engage in binge drinking significantly more often (41 per cent versus 35 per cent for Canadians, in a given year). This may in part be attributed to a greater emphasis on both men's and women's fraternities in the United States over Canada, where common initiation procedures and even fundraisers include large amounts of alcohol consumption. Not to suggest all student groups such as these focus on alcohol as a primary mode of appeal for freshmen, but it can't be ignored as a distinct mode of bait.

Typically, most advertisement of alcohol is market-segmented, focusing on creating a sexy and appealing view of drinking for the young adult population. It is this type of marketing that promotes teens to begin drinking before the age of 15, statistically paving the way for more future alcohol dependence over those who begin drinking at a later age.

As hard as it is to admit, alcoholism does exist on campus and those afflicted are often seen in a positive light by their peers as the "party people"—those who always know how to have a good time. For these students, the popularity alcohol creates can become the creation of their identity, and the demise of their brain and body. And I can certainly think of a lot better organs to kill first. Take that, appendix!

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Racism still a serious problem in 'tolerant' Canada



ADAM
SNIDER

With the exception of wannabe cowboys who hang Confederate flags from the rear window of their F-150s, few of us would admit to being racist. A good majority of people who say they aren't racist aren't. But unfortunately, there is a fair amount who are. For many, their bigotry is so ingrained and subtle that they honestly don't realize it is there.

In order to keep my tuition and other expenses under control, I work year-round stocking shelves in a department store. This job is great for two reasons: the first, as I said, is it helps pay for my tuition; the second is that I get to hear all kinds of racist comments.

All too often I hear stereotypical comments about "Lebs," Chinese, and Native Canadians that are less than flattering. If the girls at the customer service desk have a bad customer they will complain about just that: a bad customer—unless, of course, that customer was of ethnic descent. Then they are not only a bad customer, but the reason for their behaviour is because they are Chinese, Lebanese, or Native.

Then there are the jokes. Have you ever found yourself starting a joke by saying, "I'm not racist, but did you hear the one about the ethnic minority?" Adding the "I'm not a racist" qualifier to the beginning of your weak attempt at humour doesn't excuse your behaviour.

Of course, I'm not perfect. I've made those jokes. I've even said a few of those ignorant remarks at work in my less lucid moments, but I don't make a habit of it and I realize that what I'm doing is wrong. Now, I'm sure I'm not the only person who has made a racist comment and subsequently realized that it was wrong. The problem is that too many people make these comments a habit and refuse to admit that it is wrong to do so. Like a Twelve Step Program, admitting there is a problem is the first step

toward solving it. Unfortunately, few people in our country will admit that we have a problem. Typically, the problem is covered up by two comments: "Canada is a tolerant country," and "At least we're better than the States."

While both of these comments are essentially true, any value they hold is diminished when they are used to cover a serious problem. When a group of university students gets turned away from a night club for not providing a ridiculous number of government issued picture ID (because of the colour of their skin) or an online acquaintance in Ontario does the Internet equivalent of shouting, "IS MY SCREEN FUCKED UP OR IS THAT AN INTERRACIAL RELATIONSHIP?" when I email him a picture of me and my girlfriend, I'd say we have a problem that needs to be solved. Canada is a tolerant country. For the most part racism isn't a big problem. However, as long as it exists we can never really be the "True North strong and

Then there are the jokes.

Have you ever found yourself starting a joke by saying, "I'm not racist, but did you hear the one about the ethnic minority?" Adding the "I'm not a racist" qualifier to the beginning of your weak attempt at humour doesn't excuse your behaviour.

free."

21 March is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, but we don't need to wait until spring to get started. Let's start now, when people you know make racist comments, tell them why it's wrong to do so. Hell, if you've got that special kind of courage that we could all benefit from, interject when you overhear racist remarks being made by strangers. Only by talking about the problem, making people aware of it and trying to educate future generations, can we make racism disappear once and for all.

Bush is not Hitler



ADAM
ROZENHART

before Abraham Lincoln came along with a near little document called the Emancipation Proclamation.

Stupidly, this isn't the first time that the actions of the United States have been declared Hitleresque. However, where the comparison falls flat is in the Bush government's intelligence, popularity and lack of charisma. Sure, Bush got himself into the White House through questionable means—he sure wasn't elected by a majority. But that has more to do with the Electoral College than with any sort of sinister flagging on Bush's part. And he certainly isn't popular enough to get the American people to support a campaign of genocide. Comparing Bush to Hitler is laughable.

I would argue that the United States has, considering its whole history, committed greater atrocities than culling photographs and fingerprints of foreign visitors.

Most distressing about thoughtless comments equating the Nazi regime to something not even remotely similar is the denigration of what millions of Jews experienced and overcame at the hands of Hitler's twisted and inhuman policies: suffering of the worst kind imaginable.

More importantly, however, is comments like this fail to address the end result of Hitler's policies: the Jews overcame it.

And we can overcome Bush.

I think it's accurate to say the Nazis committed some of the worst crimes against humanity ever witnessed in our history. I think it's fair to say that they were, bar none, one of the most evil regimes the world ever saw. I do not, however, agree with a Brazilian judge who said that the US biometrics program is "worthy of the worst horrors committed by the Nazis."

Now, I'm not at all interested in decrying the US's biometrics program. The deplorable and draconian fingerprinting and photographing of visible minorities speaks for itself. And it's pretty much irrelevant that Brazil's decision to fingerprint visiting US citizens has been overturned. My problem resides squarely with the Brazilian judge who compared Bush's Republicans' behaviour to that of Hitler's Nazis.

Statements like these are either said without much thought, or designed solely to elicit the sort of response that I came up with upon reading the above quote: "What in the blue fuck is he talking about?" To equate something to the behaviour of the Nazis is to declare it de facto one of the worst atrocities ever committed. I would argue that the United States has, considering its whole history, committed greater atrocities than collecting photographs and fingerprints of foreign visitors. One example that spring to mind is The US's treatment of African-Americans

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Supporting the US missile defense program is the first step to salvaging the Canada-US relationship

Federal Liberals recognize the economic significance of backing Bush government's plan



JEFF STRAIN

The announcement last week by Paul Martin supporting the United States in their ambitious missile defense plan leaves one with many things to ponder. One thing that should not be a puzzle, however, is why the Martin Liberals would find such a move expedient.

In diplomatic terms, the Chrétien administration did much to shoot itself in the foot, and Paul Martin has some fences to mend. However, notwithstanding the apologies owed our southern neighbours for our various slights and insults, it should be asked whether or not there's any point to such efforts. Let us forget whilst patting ourselves on the back for "keeping the peace" and cleaning up NATO bomb sites, the US doesn't always care what we do. Of course, first we should ask ourselves: what are we doing?

The Cold War is over. Absolutely anyone targeting North America with a missile risks being obliterated by the return volley. And yet, rather than entering a new era of détente, of new direction for industry and spending, the US is fueling a new arms race. With a secure homeland, the US might be far more tempted to such acts as "storming" long-time ally Taiwan and finally declaring its independence.

The fact that only a few years ago, Chinese espionage walked away with the Pentagon's most advanced submarine-launch missile design should be an indication of how likely China is to stand by and allow that situation to materialize. The European Union, for one, is not likely to allow its military capacity to become completely eclipsed. So what's next? "Stealth" missiles? Missiles that return fire on countermeasures? Where does the developing world fit into the couple extra trillion dollars thrown into the western war machine? Where does one fit in spending on things like the environment and healthcare? The ground we're breaking might be good for a video game, but bad for karma.

President George W Bush and his advisors are not morons. Waxing the domestic budget with Star Wars-era schemes, and unilaterally occupying a nation in the Middle East, both serve long-term strategic interests of the superpower.

President George W Bush and his advisors are not morons. Waxing the domestic budget with Star Wars-era schemes and unilaterally occupying a

nation in the Middle East both serve long-term strategic interests of the superpower. As always, Canada must ponder the position of either voicing our dissent to US policy and being completely ignored, or jumping in bed with the Yankees and sharing in the spoils. It seems that Paul Martin, rather than risk being left out in the cold, opts for the bedroom. Before we throw up our hands, however, and start feeding from the star-spangled trough, it should be understood that America needs Canadian approval more than they or we might realize.

Whether or not Martin's Liberals might seek to soften the imperialistic leanings of the US, it should entertain no illusions of doing so through wedding its own foreign and military policies to those of our southern neighbour. No high diplomacy or behind the scenes humanitarianism should be attached to the aims of such a marriage. If with our aid the US should expand even more in wealth and power, then Canada is certain to reap some advantage. The irony, however, of establishing the security of the Great White North as America's step-n-fetch-it is that it's likely to expand the terrain for terrorist activity, to put Canada on al-Qaeda's radar. One might then ask what other card has Canada has to play. Well, we could do what we normally do, which is nothing—and which is actually a heck of a lot.

An aggressive and expansionistic US needs Canada on board. The idea of the US standing alone under a missile shield, possessing and refining every

armament conceivable, stretches the credibility of America's honest intent. However, without making any further commitment to such a project, Martin's mere verbal consent changes the American military defense into a North American shield. Should Europe criticize or protest against such a project, given Canada's assent to US interests, the issue suddenly becomes one of the New World vs the Old. During its failure to sway the UN Security Council into a second war against Saddam, the US made use of such things in dismissing the dissenters of "Old" Europe. Details of this sort may offer an exceedingly fine point, but such is the role of a mighty Canada, and such nuance is the difference between the US selfishly pursuing its own interests, and us all being partners in defending the free world.

Canada does not need to be radical to make a difference. Simply abstaining from such things as a multi-billion dollar missile shield is doing plenty. While signing on for such a scheme might do little in terms of influencing the White House, it does much to soften the outcry against a second global military buildup. The track laid by the Martin government, however, seems to be less in favour of supporting a stable, peaceful, global community, than of securing Canada's place in America at the top of the food chain.

And maybe that's Canada's destiny. In any case, in the balance between conscientious objection and grabbing for the gravy train, the call of the Martin government is clear: all aboard.

THE BURLAP SACK

Last year, we witnessed the birth of a new political party, the Conservatives. The road to uniting the Right has always been a winding one, and it's undeniable that, when the votes came in at 90 per cent in favour of a new party, everyone was caught off guard.

Despite all the bickering, it was clear that an unprecedented majority of conservatives thought that merging the Tories and Alliance was the sensible thing to do. But no matter what your political leanings are, there is one thing in the new Conservative equation that doesn't make sense: Peter McKay.

Now, nobody expects a politician to be an angel. We'll accept everything from the occasional white lie to "I did not have sex with that woman." But not since George Bush Sr uttered "no new taxes" has such a blatant flip-flop been vomited into the lap of the people. McKay didn't want to unite the Right, but for some unknown reason, he magically changed his mind and now wants to be its leader.

It probably be more forgiving had McKay not promoted himself as someone who would reject the mere thought of merging the two parties—if he had answered "maybe" instead of "no." So into the sack with McKay. And when you're administering that beating don't forget to get in a few good stabs in the back for good measure.

IVICA POLONOVIC

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

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TUITION EVENTS

Monday January 12:

- Greek Community Bar Night @ the Power Plant
- The Value of Education: An Examination of Higher Learning 3 – 5 pm @ Education South 129 Hosted by the Education Students' Association (ESA)

Tuesday January 13:

- FREE TUITION—A look around the world and back again 3 – 4 pm @ International Centre (172 HUB Mall at sidewalk level 9101) Hosted by the International Centre
- Academic Integrity and Tuition 3:30 – 5pm @ CAB 235 Hosted by the Academic Integrity Program

Wednesday January 14:

- Touchdowns for Tuition All day @ QUAD
- Arts Students: The Pressures Across Generations 3:30 – 5:30 pm @ Humanities Center Lecture 1 (HC 11), Humanities Building Hosted by the Arts Students' Association (ASA)
- Science, Society and Tuition 5 – 6 pm @ CAB 235 Hosted by the University of Alberta Science Undergraduate Society (UASUS)

Thursday January 15:

- Show of Support for Affordable University 4:30 pm @ Business/Arts Quad (between Old Arts, Rutherford, Business and HUB) Burgers: \$1
- Overnight Candlelight Vigil for Tuition 6:30 pm – 7 am @ SUB

Friday January 16:

- Pancake Breakfast 7–9 am @ Celebration Plaza (right by the bus loop entrance)
- Board of Governors Decision Meeting begins at 8 am, Tuition likely at 9:30 @ University Hall (beside Van Vleet)

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DIVING FOR DUMPSTER TREASURE

VICTORIA — (The Marlet) — It's a cold night for November and although there's no frost, the greasy metal siding of the dumpster is icy and my fingers fumble to get a steady grip. The other two people I'm with have already clambered into the shed that houses the large bin and scaled the seven feet to the top.

I am much slower, gingerly placing hand and foot on grimy surfaces as I haul myself up to peer into the darkness. I am on an urban treasure hunt—I am dumpster diving.

This is the fifth dumpster outside a grocery store of the evening, and judging by the pile of trash bags in the bin, it will be a successful one. The first stop of the night was still being used by employees closing down a market; the next two dumpsters were empty. The last one we stopped at was overflowing with boxes, rotten food and a dead rat. Although we managed to scavenge quite a few tomatoes and limes, it confirmed my assumptions of how gross this expedition could be.

This dumpster has a mix of fresh fruit and vegetables, a dozen large black garbage bags and some empty plastic wrapping at the top. Since it is barely half full, my roommate Emily jumps in and inspects the surface layer. Joe leans over the edge, grabbing a bag and ripping it open.

They both hold small flashlights and quickly begin handing me things to carry: three small kiwis, a quarter of watermelon wrapped in plastic, five apples, a cucumber and two lemons. I take each find and put it into our cardboard box of collected things. None of it is rotten or moldy, like I worry. In fact, I would happily have bought it.

I run my hands over the plastic bags nearest to me and gently squeeze the surface to feel for familiar shapes. This is my first time diving, so my companions give me tips: feel for shapes like apples; avoid food that spoils easily like meat or eggs; look for tetra packs because they rarely expire.

Without a flashlight it's hard to see, but after a few minutes I'm digging up more apples for us. We're fairly quiet as we cut open bags and sort through produce and packaging against the background traffic. With the exception of an unfortunate run-in with a bag of meat, which my vegan roommate unfortunately discovered, the mission is a success. Fifteen minutes later we pull out with a cardboard box filled with fruit and vegetables and move on to the next spot.

It's a conversation stopper, to say that you've just been dumpster diving. Sitting at a pub with some UVic law students during the week following my mission announcing my scavenging activities, the room fell silent.

Someone finally responded, saying that diving is a great way to pick up secondhand furniture. I agreed, but when I specified that we were looking for food, the only other comment was one blaming the Canadian and BC governments for the state of poverty.

And yes, many who dumpster dive do it out of necessity. It certainly helps pay the bills when a couple of trips to the grocery store get eliminated because of diving—as long as you can be creative with large amounts of the same product. Dumpster diving is renowned for producing vast amounts of the same thing, like two dozen tomatoes or a ten pound box of limes. But poverty's not the only reason to do it.

"I began mostly because I didn't have money, [but also] lots of good food was being wasted. There's no point in wasting such good food, it's silly," says Joe, a 24-year-old Victoria resident who recently finished his degree. "Pretty much any kind of food you find in a store, you can find in their trash."

"I began mostly because I didn't have money, [but also] lots of good food was being wasted. There's no point in wasting such good food, it's silly. Pretty much any kind of food you find in a store, you can find in their trash."

JOE, 24, UNIVERSITY GRADUATE

Most of the food we came across in our expedition was in great condition, but it was thrown out because it had reached its expiry date or looked a little battered. But there is a wide difference between what looks sellable and what is actually edible.

"We're socialized to be against it," says Joe, "to think trash is nasty and to be picky about our vegetables. We don't ever see the food off the farm so we don't know what looks 'normal.'"

When we go to a bakery to buy a loaf of bread, it usually sits at home for a week. Customers will often buy day-olds too, and yet going to a dumpster to grab a packaged loaf of bread, even minutes after it has been thrown out at the end of the day, is gross.

At least I thought it was. I had never considered dumpster diving until people around me started doing it. But seeing bags of fresh fruit and vegetables at home, things my roommate Emily found in the dumpster, that I happily ate—well, the food didn't taste any different.

Dumpster diving can still be gross. The dead rat that I saw earlier, that both Joe and Emily say was a one-time occurrence in their experiences, proves it.



WORDS: ZOË BAKE-PATTERSON PHOTOS: SHAWN BENBOW

Often a number of stores will share one dumpster, so it's hard to tell what products are inside it. Paul Lange owner of Banana Belt Produce in the Cadboro Bay area of Victoria, says his store shares their dumpster with a dry cleaning company, a hair salon, a meat product store and a restaurant.

"I'd hate to see someone in the bin eating something with chicken juice or bleach on it," he says. The trick to healthy diving is to find sealed packages, things containing preservatives or that can be scrubbed down with a little soap and water. It's an individual decision about what is and isn't edible: day-old fresh squeezed juice in a sealed container is probably safe, lettuce thrown on a pile of greasy bags, maybe not. Raw meat, definitely not.

"The only stuff that is thrown out is stuff that ... is beyond the fact of human consumption, things that are past expiry date or moldy," says Lange, who sends most of the edible but unsellable food to homeless shelters. "I hate to see waste. I'd rather see it used. It costs more to throw a watermelon out than it does to buy one, because garbage disposal is paid for by weight."

Despite this, it's clear that the city's dumpsters have plenty of rewards to offer. As we work our way through produce stores in the city, Emily and Joe compare great diving stories, like the time one of them found a case of one-liter soy milk cartons, or a dozen fresh baked muffins, or a couple litres of organic juice in sealed cartons, or even the predictable stash of day-old bagels at Mount Royal Bagels.

There are a few amazing occurrences, like Joe finding 75kg of flour or 25kg of rice—things thrown out because they were a day past their expiry date. Most things thrown out because of an expiry date are fine, particularly non-perishables like flour, rice and beans, and especially if they are in sealed packages.

Hearing stories like this makes it easy to forget that for every trip to the dumpster, there's two or three where you come home almost empty-handed. Great spots are hard to come by, and because grocery stores throw out products on a monthly cycle, it's rarely on the same day or even on the same week of each month. You have to go often.

Joe and Emily also talk about getting caught, though neither of them have been. It is legal to dumpster dive in Victoria and Saanich.

"In general terms, once you throw out your garbage it is no longer your property. Once something is kicked to the curb side it is public domain," says Constable Chris Horsley of the Saanich Police Department. "But the question is, did you have to come on to private property to get it?"

A back alley is public, but a parking lot is not. Most garbage dumpsters in the city are on store parking lots or driveways.

The police encourage people and businesses to lock up their garbage bins for a number of reasons, Horsley says. This is to prevent people from dumping garbage in other's bins, to prevent identity theft by stealing phone bills or banking information, and for liability reasons—he mentions the man who was crushed to death while sleeping in a cardboard bin in Victoria last December as an example.

"You can't drive around Saanich in the wee hours without seeing [dumpster diving]," says Horsley. "It's not a problem for the police, but it's a societal problem. If people are having to seek out a living this way, it's definitely a social concern."

There are different groups of people who go diving: those who do so out of necessity, and those who don't. Often the students who dumpster dive do it more to prevent the excessive waste of edible food than because they are starving.

It is a luxury to be able to do it by choice, rather than dire need, but it pays off. John Hoffman, author of *The Art and Science of Dumpster Diving*, explains it in three steps:

1. NORTH AMERICANS ARE EXTREMELY WASTEFUL AND THROW AWAY ALL KINDS OF AMAZING THINGS.
2. NORTH AMERICANS ARE SNOBBY AND AFRAID OF GERMS.
3. BECAUSE OF THE FIRST TWO POINTS, THE BRAVE SOUL WHO IS WILLING TO POKE THEIR HEAD INTO FORBIDDING PLACES LIKE GARBAGE BINS WILL BE WELL REWARDED.

Some stores will donate excess food to charities, like Banana Belt and the Mount Royal Bagel Company in Victoria. "I know a lot of bagels that don't get used get sent to UVic and Vic High and some other charities," says Ben Taylor, an employee at Mount Royal.

But their dumpster is still one that is regularly frequented by divers because bags of day-old bagels are often thrown out each night. Some weeks there will be a lock on the dumpster outside the store, at least until it's broken or cut off and people begin rummaging again. It's one of the few sites that regular divers will talk about because there is so much available. Veteran divers are fairly protective of their spots; if too many people start frequenting their, the stores usually lock them up.

This is what happened at the Banana Belt grocery store. The store was getting complaints about dumpster divers from people in the neighborhood and put up a sign saying that decomposing chemicals were being regularly sprayed on the garbage.

"I've only seen it once," says Joe. "It was there and I went and asked [the Banana Belt employees] and they said they didn't actually do it."

Paul Lange, the owner of the store, confirmed that they don't actually use the chemicals, but that the sign was put up to deter dumpster divers.

I was once told that it's possible to live entirely off dumpster diving. You can find food, clothes, furniture, books, CDs, and even Christmas decorations. Rummaging in garbage, we automatically think of nasty, gross heaps of refuse. But for some, it's a profitable and environmentally responsible activity.

But I still consider it to be more like a treasure hunt: it's rewarding, if you look hard enough, and you have to overlook the hideous smells and be willing to reconsider what you think garbage really is. I did it once, and although I'm no regular, it's definitely more of an adventure than grocery shopping.

RULES FOR THE DOWN AND DIRTY DIVER

1. IT'S SAFER TO GO DURING THE DAY (WHEN YOU CAN SEE CLEARLY), BUT MORE FUN TO GO AT NIGHT, AND LESS STORE PEOPLE WILL CONFRONT YOU. REMEMBER TO TAKE A FLASHLIGHT.

2. TAKE A SMALL KNIFE BECAUSE IT'S A LITTLE EASIER THAN RIPPING OPEN BAGS.

3. IF YOU'RE A BIT WARY, BRING PLASTIC GLOVES, ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE HANDLING MEAT OR ROTTEN THINGS.

4. DON'T TAKE MEAT OR THINGS THAT SPOIL EASILY. ("I KNOW QUITE A FEW PEOPLE WHO WILL EAT FROZEN SEAFOOD IF IT'S STILL FROZEN," SAYS JOE).

5. DON'T MAKE A MESS, KEEP THE GARBAGE IN THE BIN. IN FACT, LEAVE IT CLEANER THAN YOU FOUND IT.

6. AVOID LARGE STORES OR CHAINS (LIKE SAFEWAY), AS THEY USE GARBAGE COMPACTORS ATTACHED TO THE BUILDING INSTEAD OF DUMPSTERS. THESE CONTAINERS FLATTEN ALL THE GARBAGE. EVEN IF YOU COULD SNEAK IN AND FIND UNSQUASHED FOOD, YOU COULD END UP FLATTENED YOURSELF.

7. DO NOT REVEAL YOUR SOURCES. NOT EVERYONE GOES BY THIS, BUT SOME ARE ADAMANT: DO NOT GIVE AWAY YOUR BEST SITES. IF EVERYONE GOES TO THE SAME TWO OR THREE STORES, THERE WILL BE NOTHING LEFT OR

PEOPLE WILL MAKE A MESS, AND THE STORE WILL LOCK UP ITS BIN.

8. WEAR DURABLE SHOES AND WATCH OUT FOR SHARP THINGS: BROKEN GLASS, SHARP METAL CANS, AND THE URBAN MYTH OF DIRTY SYRINGES.

9. BRING A BAG TO CARRY AWAY LOOT, BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL HIT A JACKPOT.

10. BE PERSISTENT. SEARCH OUT GROCERY STORES, HEALTH FOOD STORES AND BAKERIES AS THEY ARE THE MOST CONSISTENT AND GO BACK REPEATEDLY. JUST BECAUSE IT WAS EMPTY ONCE DOESN'T MEAN IT ALWAYS WILL BE. YOU HAVE TO BE WILLING TO SCAVENGE.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Basketball

With team captain Phil Scherer sidelined due to a suspension, post Phil Sudol led the **Golden Bears** (7-3) in scoring on both Friday and Saturday night in the Main Gym, leading the team to a pair of wins over the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns (3-7). Sudol scored 17 points in Friday's 76-68 win, and 18 in a 79-66 victory the following night.

The **Pandas** (2-8) also faced the Lethbridge Pronghorns (4-6) twice at home, splitting their series with a win apiece. A 20-point spilling by Diane Smith led the Alberta squad to a 58-55 triumph on Friday, but they fell 72-60 the next night despite another 18 points from Smith.

Hockey

The **Pandas** (12-0) continued their perfect season this weekend, demolishing the visiting UBC Thunderbirds (4-7-1) 11-1 and 7-0 at Clare Drake on Friday and Saturday, respectively. Alberta outshot the T-Birds 123-0 over the two games. Forward Kaye London lit the lamp for a hat trick on Friday with goals also coming from forwards Lindsey Skelding (2), Taryn Barry (2), Lindsey McAlpine (2), Danielle Bougeois, and Kristen Hagg. Saturday night was forward Delaney Collins' turn for the hat trick, with forwards Bourgeois (2), Allyson Bendfield, and Adrienne Vanderzalm also adding tallies.

The **Golden Bears** (17-0-1) were in Lethbridge to face the Pronghorns (9-1-1), and also kept their undefeated season intact. Forward Steve Shrum scored twice to lead the team to a 6-2 victory Friday, with goals also coming from forwards Ben Thomson, Scott Henkelman, and Wade Burt, with defenceman Chris Ovington also joining in on the scoring. The next night the Pronghorns gave the Bears a slight scare, but the Bears came back from a one-goal deficit in the third period to notch a 4-3 win, with goals coming from forwards Jonathan Nelson, Justin Wallin, and Kris Knoblauch, and defenceman Perry Johnson.

Volleyball

The **Golden Bears** split two matches in BC against the Trinity Western Spartans. Friday's match ended in a straight-set win for Alberta (25-14, 25-20, 25-23) as Jeremy King had 14 kills. King went on to lead the team in kills again Saturday with 27, but the Bears dropped the match three sets to two after winning the first two (23-25, 23-25, 25-22, 29-27, 18-16).

The **Pandas** had the weekend off from Canada West play, but won an exhibition match on Thursday night versus All-Japan league champions the University of Tsukuba in five sets (25-22, 25-19, 24-26, 20-25, 15-11). Their overall record on the year is now 24-4.

Wrestling

The Bears saw their first home action of the year this weekend as they hosted the Varsity Invitational and Golden Bear Open tournaments at the ButteDome. Alberta finished in fifth place overall at the Varsity, with highlights including Joe Shebode's gold medal on the men's side, and silver medals for women's team members Heidi Kulak and Jaclyn Hedges. Kulak added a bronze at the Golden Bear, while non-varsity teammate James Kirkland earned a gold medal.

In the next issue

Reigning Olympic gold medalist Daniel Igali also wrestled at the Golden Bear Open, winning his weight class handily. After his win he spoke to the Gateway about his return from injury, his prospects for returning to the Olympics, and more. Check out Thursday's Gateway for the exclusive one-on-one interview with the only Canadian ever to win Olympic wrestling gold.

Hoops Bears sweep at home, sans captain

Team wins both games against Lethbridge, despite captain Phil Scherer's suspension

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Writer

Missing their leading scorer in the lineup this past weekend, the Bears may have seemed vulnerable to the visiting University of Lethbridge Pronghorns. But the Bears responded to the task, flaunting their depth Friday night with a balanced attack win and riding the dominant performance of a rookie in a Saturday night win to complete the sweep.

Upon returning from the fiasco that was the Bears' Hawaiian Christmas tourney, fifth-year guard Phil Scherer was suspended by the team for two games for missing two practices (as per team policy). With Scherer out, the Pronghorns saw an opportunity to steal a game or two from a team that sits one place above them in the Central Division of the Canada West Standings. What the 'Horns got, however, was something very different. Friday night's action saw four Golden Bears score in double figures—big man Phil Sudol led the way offensively with 17 points and nine rebounds. The Bears nursed a ten-point halftime lead through a few Lethbridge runs, going on to win 76-68.

Saturday night's match would prove to be a tougher battle for the Bears. Veteran Pronghorn point guard Ryan Reed brought his team back with a focused effort, and the first half concluded as a stalemate, tied at 36. The second half, however, would belong to the Bears. Rookie giant Richard Bates, a 6'9" forward from Sherwood Park, came off the bench and made a hefty contribution in the second half, racking up 16 points, seven rebounds and five rejections in only 21 minutes of playing time en route to a 79-66 victory. Bates' performance left Bears Head Coach Don Horwood beaming. "The difference for us was the way Richard Bates played. He's a fresh man, and he's out there catching the ball, dunking, and making great decisions," said Horwood. "I thought he was awesome."



UP, UP, AND AWAY Bears post Phil Sudol drives to the net in a weekend match against Lethbridge.

What was possibly even more impressive than Bates' play in Saturday's game may be the fact that it was the first significant amount of minutes that he's seen this season. After red-shirting for the first portion of the year, Bates was admittedly nervous about going into the game. "I was quite a bit nervous heading in, and I didn't expect to get much time, but with people in foul trouble, I was able to get some good minutes," commented Bates. "It was a good experience."

Horwood was pleased with the victories and looks forward to getting his leading scorer back

and having his team get a little more. The coach sounds very optimistic about what the Bears can do this season. "If we can get [Bates] to continue to play like that and improve, and we get Phil back, and get everyone going on the same page, [we'll be] right where we want to be," said Horwood.

The Bears will be hosted this weekend by Manitoba on Friday, and will play a struggling Winnipeg on Saturday night. Their next home games will come at the end of the month, against Trinity Western and Simon Fraser.

Basketball Pandas split series with Lethbridge

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Writer

The resulting split with the University of Lethbridge women's Pronghorns was a fitting indicator of the Pandas' inconsistent performance on the court this past weekend, as offensive unpredictability proved to be their downfall in a weekend matchup that head coach Trix Baker was hoping her team could sweep.

The veteran tandem of guard Diane Smith and forward Stephanie Stolk combined for 34 points

and 17 rebounds Friday night on the way to a 58-55 Pandas win. But while the Pandas rallied at the end of Friday night's game to pull the win out, their luck ran short Saturday night. Lethbridge began the game firing on all cylinders, while the Pandas struggled to score and had difficulties taking care of the ball. Lethbridge rolled to a 42-23 halftime lead behind the outstanding play of backcourt players Heidi Somerville and Kim Bridge. The duo was merciless: Bridge scored 17 points and Somerville added 16 on an abnormally high percentage from the field. With their

outside game so fluent, everything else seemed to fall in to place for Lethbridge, something that Baker admitted was tough to stop. "They were very hot. I thought we did a good job of defending [Bridge]," said Baker. "We were in her face, but she kept hitting shots. [Somerville] came out to play, too. Between the two of them, they outscored us in the first half and when that happens, it's not good."

The Pandas came out in the second half with a sense of urgency, and thanks to strong play from scrappy point guard Cris Allan, first-year forward Carly McLennan, Smith, and Stolk, the Pandas managed to cut the Lethbridge lead to six points. Unfortunately, the Horns showed poise, and were able to weather the Pandas' run. Bridge and Somerville continued their clutch play from the first half and then to close out the Pandas with a 72-60 final score. Baker was disappointed with the loss, and would've liked to have seen her squad be in the game mentally for the entire 40 minutes. "We've got to play fearless all the time. We got down 18, and then we settled down and started to play," said Baker. "It's disappointing, because we played well at the end of [Friday's] game, and I thought we turned a corner."

Stephanie Stolk received player of the game recognition for her strong performance in Friday night's win, while Pronghorns Diane Smith continued to show that her recent injuries are behind her by receiving the honours for her game-best, 18-point effort in Saturday's outing. The Pandas will trek to the always-exciting province of Manitoba this coming weekend to play against the Bisons on Friday, and Winnipeg on Saturday.



LOVE HANDLE Pandas guard Diane Smith gets a handle on this Pronghorn defender.



SUPLEX! Or at least we think that's a suplex. This duo met at this weekend's Golden Bear Open wrestling tournament.

U of A wrestlers place fifth over weekend

SFU-dominated tournament offers glimmer of hope for young Alberta squad

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Writer

Despite a fifth-place overall finish, the U of A's young wrestling squad was still pleased with its performance at the Buttermere weekend.

The Varsity Invitational and Golden Bear Open tournaments, held at the Buttermere Friday and Saturday, were ultimately dominated by a strong Simon Fraser University team and its affiliated Burnaby Mountain Wrestling Club, which boasts on its roster reigning Olympic champion Daniel Igal. SFU handily won the Varsity tournament, which was open only to CIS-eligible competitors. Simon Fraser wrestlers won five of ten men's divisions and five of seven women's, earning 107 points overall.

The Saskatchewan Huskies placed second with 54 points, while the Bears earned 31. In the Golden Bear Open, which included non-varsity club athletes such as Igal, the Vancouver wrestlers continued to dominate, while a larger Alberta squad managed only one top-two finish, after earning four in the first tournament.

"We fared quite a bit better in the Varsity, which is to be expected," said Alberta coach Vang Ioannides, noting

the increased level of competition in the second tournament, particularly from BMWC. "You've got Daniel Igal in the tournament, and you're not going to beat him very often, or at all."

Alberta's best performances on the weekend came from Joe Slobodian on the men's side and Heidi Kulak on the women's. Slobodian was one of the few competitors to break the SFU stranglehold, winning the 57kg division at the Varsity tournament, while Kulak won silver at the Varsity and bronze at the Golden Bear in the women's 65kg division. But both had strong praise for 18-year-old Roger Alves, their non-varsity teammate, who was so excited about the presence of Igal that he asked to face the Olympic gold medalist in the first round.

"He wrestled awesome," said Kulak of Alves, who lost 10-0 to Igal but came within seconds of lasting the entire six minutes. "Daniel beat him handily, but you could see glimmers of what's coming for him and what he has in store for the sport."

Slobodian was also impressed by Alves' effort against Igal. "He's going to be a future Olympian, in my opinion. Now he sees where he is right now and where he has to be in the future,

and it's just a matter of time."

Alves was more critical of his own performance, though. "I could have done a little better," he said, citing nervousness. "It's just a little mental thing that was happening there, taking on the Olympic champion. I just figured it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I wanted to see how well I'd do against him, and I figure I did alright."

The weekend was also satisfying for Slobodian and Kulak. Slobodian's gold medal was his first since returning from a seven-year retirement, while Kulak's bronze was a personal milestone. Her opponent in the bronze match, Breanne Graham of the Calgary Dinos, was a rival she had never beaten, dating back to their high school days.

"When you lose over and over to someone, every time you lose it's harder to envision that win," said a jubilant Kulak. "But I knew if I made it more of a fight than a wrestling match I'd probably win it."

Next weekend, Kulak, Slobodian and several of their teammates travel to Guelph for the World University Championship trials. The team's next action at home comes on 20-21 February when they host the Canada West Finals.

Do you know what game this is?

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THE GATEWAY

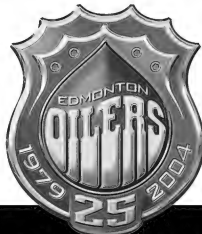
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PANDAS HOCKEY Veteran forward Danielle Bourgeois (88) scored in both Pandas wins this weekend, 11-1, and 7-0.

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Point-counterpoint: Mike Comrie

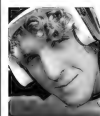
Lowe and Oilers to blame for debacle

Suck it up Comrie, you big baby



DAVE
BERRY

Point



ROSS
MOROZ

Counterpoint

Most of you looked at the 3-0 score from Saturday's Oilers game against Philadelphia and went "Alrriiight," with varying amounts of "I's" serving to express your ultimate satisfaction of our beloved hometown boys sticking it to the Flyers as well as Edmonton's newest Public Enemy Number One, Mike Comrie. But at the risk of being lynched for even suggesting such a thing, would it be so wrong to root against the Oilers in this one?

One complaint against Comrie is that he was overpaid—and that's probably valid. That said, it was the Oilers who gave him his big, fat contract to begin with. The fact is he made all that money because the Oil agreed upon performance bonuses placed into his contract, so despite all the complaints about him being overpaid he actually had to earn some of that grandiose salary. Perhaps the bonuses were too easy, but the Oilers set them, not Comrie.

Money issues aside, there's a much bigger reason to be rooting for Mr Comrie in this little battle of rich people. First, Comrie made it crystal clear that this wasn't a money issue when he offered to sign elsewhere for less money. This was a disagreement with management—a management, it should be pointed out, that currently has the Oilers sitting in twelfth place in the Western conference.

And then there's the cliché: if nothing else convinces you, Kevin Lowe's bush-league demand for \$2.5 million from Comrie to complete the trade to Anaheim was only made more despicable by Edmonton's near-unanimous acceptance of such a below-the-belt tactic. This smacked of a big "fuck you" to Comrie, and was perpetrated solely because Lowe was (correctly) sure that your drooling nineties would see it as a case of a spoiled brat against a do-nothing, glory-day management.

When it comes right down to it, it's not so much that Comrie is good, merely that he's the lesser of two evils when pitted against the power-drunk captains of this sinking ship.

Dave, you ignorant slut. While we'll never know what actually happened between Mike Comrie and the Edmonton Oilers, it is fair to say that Comrie deserves no sympathy from hockey fans in Edmonton—or anywhere else, for that matter.

Comrie had a shot at fulfilling the fantasy shared by every child in Edmonton (and their pushy, vicarious-living fathers): rising up through the ranks of minor hockey and overcoming adversity (in Comrie's case, his Theo Fleury-esque status) to end up playing for the Oilers, returning the team to its former glory.

But evidently that is no longer the goal of Edmonton's young athletes; now, minor hockey players will no doubt dream of the day when they can emerge from a life of wealth and privilege and assume their preordained role on the Oilers, only to discover that their indifference on the ice (and childish behaviour off of it) has made them unpopular enough with Edmonton's unwashed masses that playing here is no longer the orgy of hero-worship that was once expected.

The saddest thing about the Mike Comrie situation is that so much effort was expended getting him here in the first place. Comrie held out from the Oilers before he had even played a minute in the NHL, waiting to sign with Edmonton (who drafted him when he was unwanted by other teams) until mere days before he would've gone back into the draft.

Also, the money paid to Comrie would have gone a long way to keeping far more beloved players here. Anyone who has shared a pint with the polite Jeanne Miimma at the Black Dog is far richer having done so than the patrons of Cowboys (or, more recently, the SUB food court) who have run into the profiling Mike Comrie.

So good luck, Mikey. I hope that your inevitable holdout in Philly is as fun as your Oilers holdout was.

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♦♦♦

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♦♦♦

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Yellowcard prepares to brave the frozen north

Yellowcard

with Eve 6 and Jersey
Monday, 19 January
Red's

ROSS MOROZ
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"Do they really have pot bars in Vancouver?" Yellowcard guitarist Ben Harper asks, already beginning to plan his after-show entertainment for the first stop of his band's Canadian tour on the west coast. Upon learning that the Gateway is, in fact, disappointingly based in Edmonton, not Lotus-land, he adds, "Wow, Edmonton. How cold is it there?"

22-year-old Harper is one-fifth of the LA based pop-punk group Yellowcard, and since he's on the phone from his apartment in the sunny Hollywood hills, his concern about the weather and drug availability up here in Canada is understandable. Even a brief listen to the

sunny, bittersweet emo on the band's first major label release, *Ocean Avenue*, indicates that these boys probably haven't had a lot of experience with harsh winters. And they haven't; the members of Yellowcard all hail from Jacksonville, Florida, where they met as students in a performing arts high school. After signing to Santa Barbara-based Lobster Records, they relocated to California and have been based in the Golden State ever since, happily making slick emo-punk and eventually catching the attention of Capitol Records.

When a band on a small label moves to a major one, there is usually some amount of grumbling about "selling out" from the band's fans, but this hasn't been the case for Yellowcard.

"No one really noticed a difference," says Harper, comparing *Ocean Avenue* with the band's independently released *Underdog EP*. "Obviously you change and grow as a band, but we just play the music we want to play."

And since being true to their tunes is such a

top priority, Harper says the band has resisted the urge to indulge in any kind of rockstar lure now that they are on a major label. "We're so not rock stars. We watched a video on Motley Crüe the other night, so that might help, but we don't want to be rock stars; I don't even like Jack Daniels," he laughs.

Perhaps another reason why Yellowcard have not been taken to task for commercializing their music is because it was always very accessible and pop-oriented in the first place. Yellowcard is no Propagandhi (which, bizarrely, Harper insists he is a huge fan of) and Jimmy Eat World is probably a better comparison. Their music is not the soundtrack to the revolution—although it would probably make a pretty good soundtrack for a day at the beach. "We write positive music," agrees Harper. "Why wouldn't we?"

One thing that sets Yellowcard apart from their contemporaries is the inclusion of some unique instrumentation; Yellowcard's lineup includes violinist, Sean Mackin. While some would dis-

miss this as a gimmick, Harper feels that it adds a necessary dimension to the music. "It is what it is, you know, but it totally adds to the music," says Harper. "And it's not just a violin, it's Sean, and Sean also sings!"

Talking with Harper, it's obvious that the type of music a band makes is a lot like the people who make it: Yellowcard makes likeable, happy, normal music, and Yellowcard's members are likeable, happy, normal people. All come from upper-middle-class suburban backgrounds and are refreshingly devoid of the cynicism and forced irony of many bands in their age bracket. This laid-back, positive attitude also extends to Harper's outlook on his band's newfound fame. When asked how big he wants to see Yellowcard get, he laughs.

"We're so much bigger than we ever thought we'd be," he says. "We don't need to get any bigger. We could go home now." And, after slogging through the frozen tundra of Canada, they'll probably want to.

YELLOWCARD YELL-OUTS

with guitarist Ben Harper

ON GEORGE W BUSH

"I don't really know enough about him to say whether I like him or not. I should probably know more. I was raised a democrat, so if I did know more I probably wouldn't like him. I know that a lot of people here in California really don't like him."

ON FILE SWAPPING

"This band exists because of the Internet, and this band got where we are because of the Internet. Before we ever had an EP or anything we had MP3s all over the place. But, yeah, there are people that make their living in the music industry, and they have to get paid somehow, so I don't know what the answer is."

ON HIS FAMOUS NAME

"Actually, most of our fans don't know who the other Ben Harper is. It's only when I'm talking to industry people that it comes up. I think Ben Harper is really cool, though, and he has a cool name."

Burton's *Big Fish* a whimsical tale

Family magic replaces gothic undertones in Burton's latest fairytale-style film

Big Fish

Directed by Tim Burton
Starring Albert Finney, Bill Crudup, Ewan McGregor
and Jessica Lange
Sony Pictures
www.sonypictures.com/movies/bigfish
Now Playing

TREVOR TEMON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Conjoined twin showgirls, a misunderstood giant, a witch with a fortune-telling eye and an enormous catfish: this may be a Tim Burton movie.

After dropping the ball on 2001's redo of *Planet of the Apes*, director Tim Burton returns with a heart-warming little number called *Big Fish*. At the core of *Big Fish* is the story of Edward Bloom (Albert Finney and Ewan McGregor) and his emotionally estranged son, Will (Billy Crudup). When Edward falls ill, Will, now a reporter, comes looking to reconnect with his adventurer father and to find out the facts behind the supposedly tall tales told to him as a boy. The tales, or colourful lies as Will believes them to be, are told through flashback sequences, making way

for Burton's dense imagination to wax enchantingly through mystical towns, quaint circus side-shows and spooky witch's castles.

Fans of Burton's creepier fare such as *Beetlejuice*, *Edward Scissorhands* or *The Nightmare Before Christmas* should be prepared for a journey through the quirkier realm of his imagination this time. Blending elements of *Forrest Gump* and *The Princess Bride*, *Big Fish* ditched the usual gothic undertones for just the right amount of tried-and-true family magic. Add to that an incredibly gifted ensemble cast that knows its place alongside the ever-present whimsical weirdness, and an instant cult classic is born.

As the older and younger Edward Bloom, Finney and McGregor shine with an endearing presence and charm that draws the viewer to Bloom, just as he charms other characters in the film. Finney is every bit as robust and colourful as you'd expect a great storyteller to be in his golden years, and McGregor's smiling innocence is perfect in portraying Bloom's curious journey as a wandering spectator.

After a long hiatus from the big screen, Jessica Lange also returns here with a sparkling performance as Bloom's wife, Sandra. Lange comes across with a seemingly real affection

for Finney that effortlessly showcases her as the adventurer's wife with her twinkling presence.

At times, the heavy reliance on narration and frequent returns to the real world threaten to disturb the film's flow, but somehow—mostly with the help of beautifully inspiring sets and a genuine zest for storytelling—*Big Fish* never loses its way. Bloom's curious fairy tales are so entrancing that you're immediately drawn back in, no matter how long you've been gone.

In the end, *Big Fish* is a sweet story about child-parent reconciliation that seems like a bit of an odd choice for a director known best for his avid affinity for the things that go bump in the night. But when you consider Burton was reportedly never close with his own late parents, he may simply be blurring the line between fantasy and reality even more than he has in the past in creating his most autobiographical work to date.



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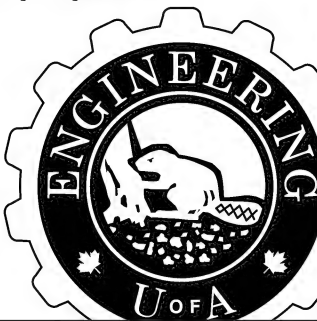
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Moving Malcolm fails to impress

Benjamin Ratner's new 'vaguely autobiographical' film falls flat with obvious plot line, boring characters, Elizabeth Berkley

Moving Malcolm

Starring Benjamin Ratner, Elizabeth Berkley, John Neville, Nicolas Lea, Bobb Chula and Jay Brazeau
Directed by Benjamin Ratner
Now Showing

LEAH COLLINS

Arts & Entertainment Writer

There's nothing like a little misery to inspire a teary-eyed schmuck to artistic pursuits. Though the countless bad poems and moody charcoal drawings created by said schmucks are usually mercifully hidden from view in teenage diaries and goth-themed blogs, every once and awhile one of these terrible crybaby masterpieces makes it to an audience. *Moving Malcolm*, a "vaguely autobiographical" film written, directed by and starring Benjamin Ratner, is one of those embarrassing, misery-fueled creations that should have stayed hidden in the closet.

Ratner plays Gene Maxwell, a struggling writer who has been abandoned at the altar by B-movie actress fiancée, Liz (played, in a tongue-in-cheek casting move, by B-movie actress, Elizabeth Berkley). Gene, understandably, is saddened by this turn of events and, being a sensitive writer type, 381 days and 272 427 words later, he's channelled all his sadness and Liz-obsession into a novel, which he dreams will one day bring his charming Liz back.

Liz does eventually return, but only to ask Gene for a favour: to help her aging father (John Neville) change apartments while she flies off to film some sort of Power Rangers-esque T&A epic in Prague. Being the schmuck that he is, Gene readily accepts and so begins a slow and predictable journey of coming-to-terms with his sad and lonely self.

Naturally, Gene hits it off with Liz's dad, Malcolm—who, for the sake of upping the plot's obvious-meter, is slowly dying, unbeknownst to his neglectful daughter—and, through a short series of scenes, the two find some sort of moving bond in their shared pain. But altogether too little attention is paid to their relationship and character development, making the plot and presumed point of the movie feel all the more forced. Neville thankfully brings a charming dignity to the character of Malcolm, narrowly rescuing scenes of cantankerous sailor-talk and septuagenarian sex from being no more than a "zany"

senior citizen stereotype of the *Golden Girls* variety.

The problems that trouble Gene and Malcolm's onscreen relationship haunt the rest of the relationships in the film as well, and Ratner pays dangerously little attention to the development of characters other than his own. Though a sub-story with his parents and autistic sister takes more of the movie's attention than Gene's relationships with Malcolm or Liz, the script's neglect of character reduces Gene's family to slapstick caricatures. And unfortunately, all the family's tacked-on hijinx, like most everything else in the film, fails to produce a laugh. If anything, the family's antics, particularly those of the autistic sister (moments of so-called comic relief include her assaulting a landscaper with a rake) are uncomfortably dehumanizing.

It's hard to find any point of sympathy with *Moving*

Malcolm's characters, least of all Liz. She isn't meant to be the most lovable of the sorry bunch; she is, after all, a manipulative heartbreaker with a history of neglecting to spend a little more quality time with old dad. But considering Berkley's performance style hasn't seemed to have graduated from the BaySide High School of Acting (memorably, Berkley played the character Jessie on *Saved by the Bell*), she fails to imbue Liz with any possibility of depth.

Liz spends most of the film ineffectually attempting to elicit phone-sex from a gradually-falling-back-in-love-with-her Gene, and her rare moments of emotion are characterized by Berkley in a bizarre half-alien/half-baby doll cutesy voice.

It's all too easy for the audience to see that Gene needs to move on after a broken heart. And, unfortunately, it would have been better if Ratner had figured this little fact out before writing an entire movie to come to the same obvious conclusion.



Our Lady Peace

Still in the Roode
Sony
www.ourladypeace.com

KRISTINE OWRAM
News Editor

In grade nine, when my undying love for Our Lady Peace had more to do with Raine Maida's green eyes than with their music, I would have listened to their albums until they were destroyed by scratches. I also had undying hatred for Chantal Kreviazuk, who stole my future husband away. :(

BLINKER the STAR



STILL IN ROODE

Blinker the Star
Still in the Roode
French Kiss
www.blinkerthestar.com

JESS WARREN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Good ol' Canadian rockers Blinker the Star play some good Canadian-style rock n' roll on their fourth LP, *Still in the Roode*.

Combining high energy melodies with straightforward, vigorous lyrics, band founder and main creating force, Jordon Zadorozny continues his quest

to provide music reminiscent of that produced in the '70s. At times, however, this goal interrupts an otherwise fine example of modern rock to provide space for conspicuously over-reaching singles bent on connecting with the masses through song.

The last track, "What Have I Been Waiting For?" is especially sugarcoted as it philosophizes, "Hey hey, what do you say? To feel a little love you've got to feel some pain!" Once the necessary allowances have been made for these sporadic attempts at greatness, this CD can be fully enjoyed for its musically patriotic vigor and the way it creates the perfect backing track to any Canadian, non-traditional get-together.

By summer we may be hearing Blinker's melodious lights wafting down the streets from the scene of a local indie-rock lover's barbeque. And really, aren't barbeques what the purpose of rock n' roll has always really been?

'Plant hosts nice guys, funksters and young girls at Battle of the Bands

Battle of the Bands

With *The Raunchy Wahs*, *Snic*, *Niceguy* and *Mark Birtles Project*
Saturday, 10 January
Powerplant

ROSS MOROZ
Arts & Entertainment Writer

From instrumental porn-funk to power-pop-punk, this year's Antifreeze battle of the bands was a staggeringly diverse showcase of University talent. While it is impossible to objectively analyze bands that are so different from each other, the panel of judges (made up of local journalists, U of A students, and fellow musicians) should be given credit for making some incredibly good choices.

The first band of the evening was the Raunchy Wahs, an instrumental funk group who played generic, wah-wah-pedal-laden, porn-worthy funk jams. Playing first at any show is always a challenge, but the act of arriving with a cheering section of a dozen screaming blondes—who suspiciously left immediately following the Raunchy Wahs' set—didn't do much to endear the band to the crowd or the judges. Not surprisingly, the Raunchy Wahs were eliminated after the first round. Also eliminated after the opening round was Willibsong, who have clearly been far more influenced by Finger Eleven than any band should be, especially considering that some members of Willibsong looked like they were old enough to be the fathers of some of the disinterested young girls in the Powerplant audience.

The band that eventually ended up in third place was hardcore group *Snic*, who would have won by a wide margin if this contest had been based entirely on technical proficiency and musicianship. That said, *Snic* was possibly the most frustrating group of the night; their set saw moments of melodic, anthemic brilliance, but these brief flashes were quickly obscured by lumbering hardcore, monotonous screams and masturbatory guitar noodling. While *Snic* probably won't go on to bigger and better things, their 16-year-old drummer, who was frighteningly awesome, certainly will.

The judges' choice for second place was the appropriately named *Niceguy*. *Niceguy* were certainly the most accessible and likeable band on the bill and



LAUREN JENNINGS

HOT LIGHTS This dapper, young lad "rocked out" Saturday night.

they were definitely the fan favourite. With their catchy melodies, pop sensibilities, refined sound and undeniably attractive front man, *Niceguy* aren't about to win any awards based on edginess, nor are they trying to; guitarist Kieran Halloran has unmitigated praise for bands like Jimmy Eat World.

Snic was possibly the most frustrating group of the night; their set saw moments of melodic, anthemic brilliance, but these brief flashes were quickly obscured by lumbering hardcore, monotonous screams and masturbatory guitar noodling.

But in a local scene filled with too many bands whose primary goal is impressing guys in other bands, it's refreshing to see a band that isn't afraid to be unabashedly pop.

In contrast to the refined sound of *Niceguy*, the night's winners, the bizarrely named *Mark Birtles Project*, were notable for their raw energy. If the Clash slowly morphed into The Mooney Suzuki, *Mark Birtles Project* would be the halfway point, with their Elvis-Costello-meets-the-Talking Heads sound. While the crowd was somewhat confused and flabbergasted by the unclassifiable nature of the band's sound, the fun that *Mark Birtles Project* has onstage was infectious. Guitarist Bryan Birtles even felt compelled to poke fun at the judging criteria; noting that bands were expected to connect with the audience, he said "I'm wearing a hat because some of you in the audience are wearing hats, and I felt that that demographic was underrepresented in our band." It should come as no surprise that Birtles is studying political science.

The lineup was diverse, the audience was inebriated, and this year's Antifreeze Battle of the Bands waged on in true university-aged fashion. If you missed it, don't punch yourself in the mind too hard; these local acts will surely be appearing in a club or their parent's basement tightening up their chops until next year rolls around.

a budding singer/songwriter, and from *Every Sphere* follows the same melodic path, but takes many new, unexpected and terrible pit stops along the way.

Most of these side trips break open a new door in Harcourt's musical skill, but sometimes they just don't work. Surprises lie strewn in tracks like "Ghostwriter," whose hammers and clanks sound like mid-'80s Depeche Mode, but when the Marilyn Manson-esque vocal comes in (think "Apple of Sodom" meeting "People are People") one can't see how this fits in with the melancholy normalcy of Harcourt's other works.

Expanding his sound further should have made Harcourt's new album a sophomore success, but the complete lack of cohesiveness ruins the flow of an otherwise decent follow-up. Harcourt would do well to ditch his terrifying experimentalism and make a double-paced dash back to the softer melodies that brought him his initial success.



Ed Harcourt
From *Every Sphere*
Capitol Records
www.edharcourt.com

KRIS BEREZANSKI
Arts & Entertainment Writer

As a germinating hybrid of Jeff Buckley and Elliot Smith, Ed Harcourt has left himself with a tall ladder to climb. With his first disc, *Here be Monsters*, Harcourt pursued a gentle tone that wafted dreamily through the album. It was a solid effort that brought recognition to him as

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If you would like to review all Student Union job postings, they can be found at this website: www.su.ualberta.ca/employment

FREE STUFF



For a chance to win a **double pass** to an advance screening of *The Butterfly Effect* on Thursday, 15 January at 7pm in South Edmonton Common, be one of the first **10 students** to drop by the Gateway newspaper offices on the 3rd floor of SUB after 1pm tomorrow and tell the A&E editor the name of one other movie that stars Ashton Kutcher.

OPENS IN THEATRES 23 JANUARY

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Statement a muddled mess

The Statement

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Directed by Norman Jewison

Sony Pictures

www.sonyclassics.com/thestatement

Now Playing

DAVE BERRY

Arts & Entertainment Writer

By all accounts, *The Statement* should be a good film. It features an intriguing story that revolves around an exciting manhunt for a tortured and complex main character who is under the shadow of the Nazi-collaborating Vichy France, and actors that you can generally rely on for outstanding performances. But while this premise is a more solid base than many movies start from, the final presentation is a disappointing and laboured film in which the only statement being made is best described in the title screens at the beginning and end.

The movie begins with a grainy prologue set during WWII, in which a company of French police officers are shown rounding up, humiliating and ultimately executing Jews under the watchful eye of a German army official. The movie is then transported 50 years into the future, following Pierre Brossard—who is played by Michael Caine in what is the only good performance in the film—the French police officer who took part in the executions several years ago, but managed to escape prosecution for war crimes since he was protected by friends in the Catholic Church. Brossard is currently in hiding from a thrill Paris judge (Tilda Swinton), who is intent to bring him to justice under new Crimes Against Humanity legislation, and a secretive, possibly Jewish, cabal who wants to see him executed for his actions in Vichy France.

What follows is a largely predictable and uninteresting story. Instead of exploring the complexities of Brossard—who is simultaneously a deeply religious man that only desires God's forgiveness; a man capable of killing in cold blood and a timid, nervous wreck also cunning enough to foil several assassination attempts—we are left with muddled and incomplete sketches. Director Norman Jewison didn't even have the ability to craft a decent thriller out of the seemingly suspenseful plot, and there are few, if any, truly tense moments or feelings of urgency in what is ultimately a chase film.



mately a chase film.

The problems with *The Statement* don't end with the plot, however, as the acting suffers from major pitfalls too. Though Caine is quite good at portraying the conflicting sides to his character, the actors surrounding him are simply abysmal. One example is the inadequate performance by Jeremy Northam who plays an army officer assisting a judge to an assignment case—his character so laboriously acted that he can't even make smoking a cigarette look natural. Not that the actors had much to work with in their largely two-dimensional characters. In the case of the judge, for instance, we learn that she has an intense desire to catch Brossard, but we never learn exactly why, except maybe because war criminals are clearly bad. Without any discernible form of motivation, she comes across as downright bitchy and entirely unsympathetic, which is quite the feat when you consider she's up against a Nazi collaborator.

From absolutely hilarious cockney accents on supposedly French villagers to an obtrusive and overblown score, all wrapped up in muddled-of-the-road cinematography and comedy that, if it is indeed intentional, is horribly misplaced, this film is full of giant pitfalls. Despite having the foundation for what should be an exceedingly interesting and thought-provoking film, the filmmakers made every wrong decision they could and left us with a muddled mess.

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Michael Jackson

Ones

Sony

www.michaeljackson.com

ROSS MOROZ

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Michael Jackson is a freak. He is a total, absolute freak. He is the freakiest freak that ever freaked. On the ten-point Mohs scale of comparative celebrity freakiness, Michael Jackson would score

247. If he was in Outkast, their last album would have been called "Freakonia."

That said, should any of this detract from our enjoyment of *Ones*, Jackson's new greatest hits package? Frankly, no. Michael Jackson may be a freak, but the man sure wrote some wicked tunes. He is the forefather of modern pop, and his greatness is further reinforced by how superior the tracks on *Ones* are to anything produced by those whom he has so obviously influenced; Brinley or Justin would have to make a pact with the devil to ever release an album even a fraction as listenable as "Thriller" or "Bad."

Every song on this album wasn't just well written, they were all also unprecedented hits the likes of which have yet to be rivaled by any of today's modern artists. Even if you were never really a fan, you'll surely know the words to each of the singles featured on this compilation. I dare you listen to the entire thing and not hum along to at least one track.

To sum up, Michael Jackson's a freaky weirdo who wrote the best pop songs ever.

SITE UNSEEN



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HEATHER ADLER

Arts & Entertainment Editor

If you've ever wanted to direct your own movie starring Jennifer Love Hewitt, Emmanuel Lewis and

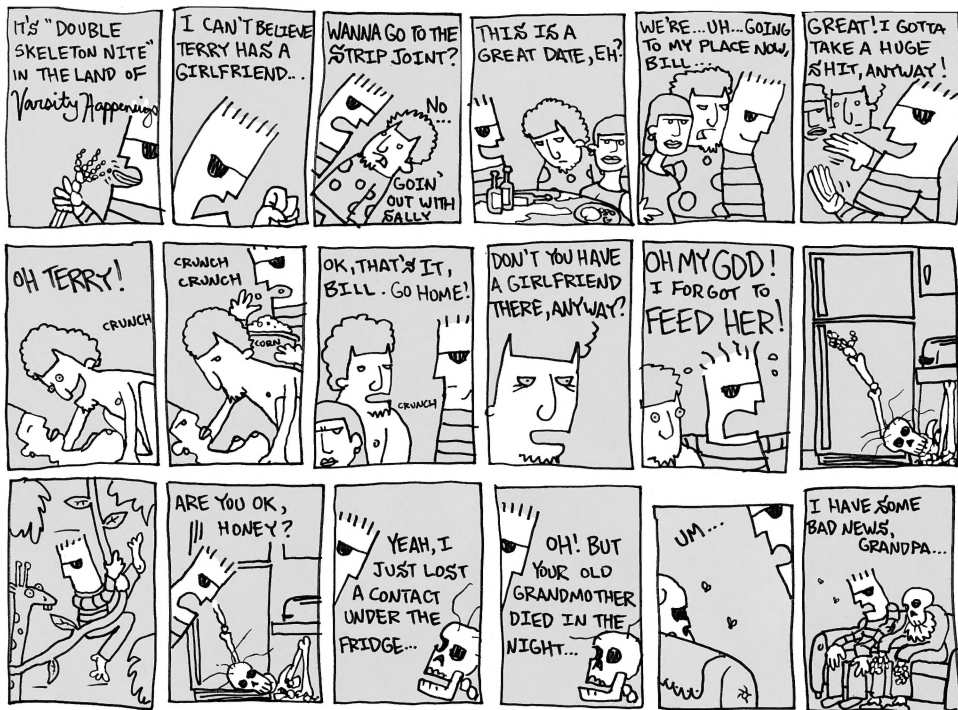
that dog from the RCA commercials, there's finally a website that will allow you to virtually live out your most depraved fantasies.

The automatic bad movie generator is the needier epicenter for producing mock Hollywood trailers; it allows you to select your own starring cast and catchy title then randomly selects terrible background music and fictitious tagline review quotes.

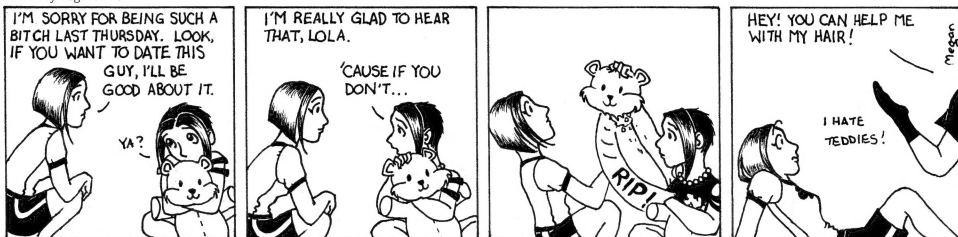
In true Tinseltown fashion, the creators of this generator have stocked the website with all sorts of ridiculous premises for your make-believe film: "On an undiscovered continent in a secret place known only to a sacred few," announces one option while Aerosmith's "Dude Looks Like A Lady" blasts in the background. The site also substitutes new music, fake reviews and supporting B-list actors into your movie preview on each reload, so you can watch your brilliance over and over without ever growing bored of the rampant insipidity.

You owe the closest movie geek inside of you to check out this website, create a plethora of fake trailers and send them, much to the inevitable aggravation of every person in your address book: Emmanuel Lewis commands you to do so.

JUMBO VARSITY HAPPENINGS by Bill Benson



ANNA by Megan Simko



LIFE GONE SPOINK! by Ryan Lupul



PLAN-B by Mike Snider



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASL Sign Language class Level One begins 20 January, for twelve weeks. Tuesdays, 6:30pm-9:30pm. Contact: Specialized Support and Disability Services, U of A, 492-3381, 2-800 SUB for more information.

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HAPPY BOB KNOWS

Campus events and more...

The ASA and SU presents Arts Students: The Pressures Across Generations, a panel discussion surrounding the debt loads, work loads, social lives and viability of the job market for various generations of Arts Students. Panel includes Liberal MLA Kevin Taft and various other Grads. Discussion begins on Wednesday, 14 January at 3:30PM in Humanities Lecture Theater 1.

CaPS presents the Education Career Fair: a major networking event where employers will recruit U of A students and alumni who their careers. Come to the Butterdome on Monday 19 January from 10am to 4pm. CaPS also presents the Pharmacy Career Fair on Saturday, 31 January from 11am to 3pm.

The Academic Support Centre presents a drop-in study help Tuesdays from 10:30 am to 11:35am and Wednesdays from 2pm to 3pm for the rest of the term. Drop by and speak to one of the Centre's instructors about any study questions. First come, first served.

Also upcoming from the Support Centre are seminars about exam strategies (17 January from 10am to 12pm for \$20), study strategies (17 January from 1pm to 4pm for \$20), practical note-taking tips (19 or 20 January from 12:30pm to 1pm for \$5), work with web-based and other notes (20 January from 2:30pm to 3:30pm or 21 January from 11am to 1pm for the price of \$30). You must pre-register at 2-717 SUB.

HBK is a service provided for Registered Student Services and University Departments only. HBK is only printed in the Tuesday editions of the Gateway each week. HBK does not publish events that are weekly on-going, or not open to the public. Submissions will print for one issue only. Entry deadline is 3pm Fridays (submit your entry on the Friday before the issue you wish it to appear in). Submit to the Gateway Offices (5-04, third floor SUB), email production@gateway.uAlberta.ca or fax to 492-6665.

the Light and Sound of God, Monday, 19 January from 5pm to 4pm at SUB 0-11. To pre-register, call 490-1129.

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Volunteer piano teachers wanted for Inner City school children. Information session at 5pm Thursday, 15 January in CAB 265.

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ASTRONO WATCH

Keeping an eye on the sky...

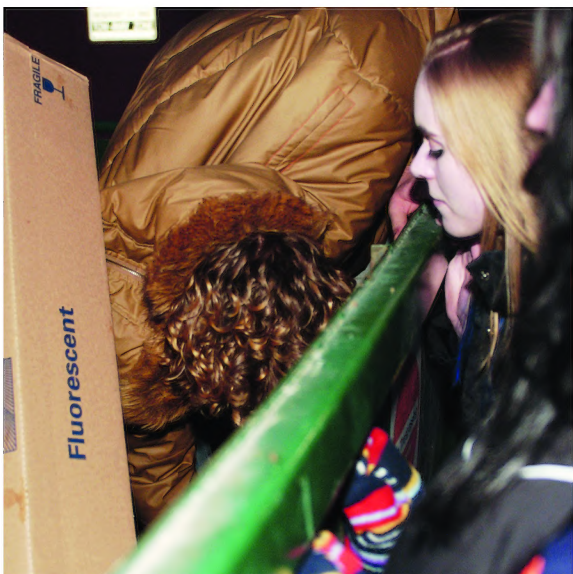
What do work parties have to do with astronomy? Absolutely nothing, but they sure are fun! Especially when wine-stealing and glass-breaking ensue. Which, when I'm involved, they invariably do. Man, what a great weekend! I think it'll make up for this coming week, which has started out incredibly shitty. I should have run away to Paris when I had the chance. I could have begun life anew as a sexy international physicist student with a wild streak, instead of the loser university dropout who scrounges for cigarette butts that I think I'm destined to become. Look for me shuffling around Whyte Ave wearing newspaper shoes in the near future.

Anyways, at least my house doesn't have a potentially fatal air leak like the International Space Station. Apparently it doesn't pose an immediate threat to the crew. US astronaut Michael Foale and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri, however, the busted air hose which is the culprit of the leak will eventually have to be replaced.

In other news, astronomers have discovered the first extrasolar planet with a magnetic field. This planet orbits a star in the constellation Sagittarius 90 light years away and was discovered using the 3.6-metre telescope on Mauna Kea that Canada shares with France and Hawaii.

Hey buddy, got any spare change?

No, silly. It's not astrology, it's astronomy. **ASTROWATCH** is a weekly feature published every Tuesday. Our resident astronomer, **Kati Kovacs**, sets the stage for the cosmos, and invites you up to the Campus Observatory every Thursday evening at 8pm. Just take the elevator in the Physics Building up to the sixth floor, and then the stairs up to the seventh floor. Walk out onto the roof and check out the view with the University's telescopes.



SHAWN BROWNE

FLUORESCENT DIVE What are these fine individuals looking for in the depths of a dumpster? Turn to page 10 to find out.

Better than Krispy Kreme
The Gateway Blog

www.gateway.uAlberta.ca/healthandlifestyle

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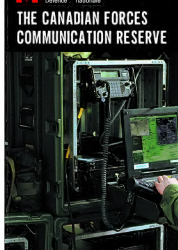
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